WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
5 - NOV 1946

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF MYNYDDISLWYN.

REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the
YEAR ENDING 31st DEC., 1945.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Health Department,

Council Offices,

PONTLLANFRAITH,

Mon.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. HARROLD & GENTLEMEN,

It is with pleasure I present the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1945. The year has been free from any serious epidemic.

The general health of the community has been good. The birthrate for the area was 21.02 and the deathrate, 12.01, which compare favourably with that of the county, viz., 18.5 and 12.2. Unfortunately the infantile mortality rate of 75 is high; high too, compared with that of the county 55.6.

You will see from the classified table of deaths that diseases of the circulatory and respiratory systems are the chief causes. Deaths from cancer are the same number as last year namely, 15, 6 of which were between the ages of 45 and 65, the rest being over 65.

Silicosis contributed 4 deaths, 3 between 45 and 65 and 1 over 65.

There is a slight reduction in the number of notifications of Tuberculosis: 19 compared with 21 last year; 12 being pulmonary, with altogether 5 deaths, compared with 7 last year.

In notifiable diseases, other than Tuberculosis there was 1 case of Cerebro Spinal and unfortunately that was fatal.

There were 100 cases of measles, all mild and no deaths reported. Particulars of other cases - few in number - are found in the classified table.

124 children between 1 and 5 years, and 78 between 5 and 15 years were immunised against Diphtheria and only 1 case of Diphtheria was notified and that was queried. From the table that has been compiled you will note, with satisfaction that there was an appreciable reduction of cases from the year 1937 when there were 58 cases.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (Acres)	5,415.
Population 1945.	13,320.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to rate books.	3,215.
Rateable Value.	£44,992.
Product of penny rate.	£163.

/General Provisions

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1.	Public Health Officers of the Authority.	
	A. Part-time Medical Officer of Health.	G.G. Mackay, M.B.
	B. Full-time Sanitary and Meat Inspector.	P.S. James, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
2.	Laboratory Facilities.	County Council.
3.	Ambulance Facilities.	An ambulance is provided by private contract and used for general purposes other than for the removal of Infectious Diseases.
4.	Nursing in the Home.	District Nursing Association.
5.	Child Welfare: - Clinic and Treatment Centres.	County Council.
6.	Hospitals: Public and Voluntary.	No change from previous report.
7.	Tuberculosis: Treatment.	King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association.
8.	Tuberculosis: After care and allowance.	County Council.
9.	Veneroal Disease: Treatment centres and tracing contacts.	County Council.
10.	Premature Infants and Illegitimate children.	County Council.

WATER SUPPLY.

The main source of supply is obtained from the Abertillery and District Water Board. To ensure that it is satisfactory the Engineer to the Board has samples taken at regular intervals.

The following shows the results during the year: -

PIPE SUPPLIES.

		Number Satisfactory.	Number Unsatisfactory.
1.	(a) Bactoriological Exams. of Raw Water.	-	-
	(b) " " " Treated Water.	20	-
	(c) Chemical Analyses.	-	-

(The water supply to the district is not liable to plumbo solvent action)

2.	(a) Number of houses supplied from public water mains.	
	(i) direct to the houses.	3190.
	(ii) by means of stand pipes.	13.
	(b) Approximate population supplied from public water mains.	
	(i) direct to the houses.	13,198.
	(ii) by means of stand-pipes.	58.

/Rivers

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action was taken in relation to the pollution of rivers and streams in the area; the chief pollution of the rivers in these industrial areas is, ofcourse, the coal-dust and this is common in the areas through which the rivers run.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The district is well served with efficient sewers, and practically all houses in the built-up areas are provided with water closets. There, remains, however a few outlying portions of the area, and houses on the hill-tops, which are not within a reasonable distance of the sewers; these are provided with pail-closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Owing to salvage collection the collection of refuse was confined to two days a week.

The disposal of house refuse is a centralized system of tipping, and control is being carried out very satisfactorily.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE YEAR.

(a)	Number of Inspections made during the year.	833.
(b)	Number of notices served - Informal.	211.
	Statutory.	20.

SHOPS.

During the year, the Sanitary Inspector made a survey of all the shops in the area in compliance with the Shops Act, 1934, and reports that nearly all of them are satisfactory. Where they were not in all respects in compliance, letters were sent to the occupier and the matters were immediately attended to.

SCHOOLS.

The schools in the district are supplied with a plentiful and good water supply direct from the mains of the Abertillery & District Water Board.

The sanitary conveniences, and the schools themselves are of modern construction; periodical inspections are carried out by your Sanitary Inspector and fairly high standards of cleanliness and order are maintained in and about the schools.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

Extensive facilities are provided for sunbathing and games, and for Juvenile instruction. The schools made every use of the last facility during the past year. The total number of attendances of pupils who received such instruction was 2,256 and a large number acquired a certificate of proficiency.

The total number of bathers and spectators was as follows: -

Bathers (Adults)	3,495.
Bathers (Juvenile) including school classes.	12,698.

/Spectators

Spectators (Adults)	2,029.
Spectators (Juvenile)	2,095.

MORTUARY.

Ten bodies were taken to your mortuary during the year. The Pathologist and doctors who have the use of the mortuary are highly pleased with the facilities.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	352.
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	471.
2.	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under subheading (1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulation, 1925.	Nil.
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	Nil.
3.	(a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	Nil.
	(b) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	211.

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT THE SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

1.	(a) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority.	120.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A.	Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	Nil.
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
1.	Number of dwelling-houses in which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	20.
2.	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.	
	(a) By owners.	6.
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.	Nil.
C.	Proceedings under Section 11, 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
1.	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in Pursuance of Demolition Orders.	Nil.
D.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	Nil.

/Housing Act,

HOUSING ACT, 1936. - OVERCROWDING.

The position with regard to the overcrowding in this district was very acute.

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

(a) MILK - The Sanitary Inspector visited the Dairies, Milkshops, and Cow-sheds within the area during the year.

Special effort was made during the year to take samples of milk from all producers and retailers in the district (in conjunction with the County Health Department) for the purpose of Bacteriological examination.

Visits were made frequently to the shops, bakehouses and other premises where foodstuffs are prepared for sale.

Vans and carts used for the hawking of the various foodstuffs were carefully watched and inspected by your Sanitary Inspector.

(b) ADULTERATION - The Council is not the Food and Drugs Authority.

(c) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOODS.

All examinations under this heading are carried out by the Laboratories of the County Council.

(d) NUTRITION - No special work has been carried out by your Health Department under this heading.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The number of skin diseases occurring in the district, which were dealt with accordingly was less than that of 1944.

The number of cases of Infectious Diseases that necessitated removal can be seen in the prepared table "Notificable Diseases".

Very little difficulty was experienced in obtaining admission to Bedwellty Isolation Hospital.

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin and Stroptocide for Puerperal cases is always kept at the Health Department of the Council Offices and the Medical Practitioners in the district make full use of this provision.

When notification of an Infectious Disease is received and enquiries reveal that there are school children in the home, intimation is always sent to the Head Teachers of the respective schools.

After any Infectious Disease all premises and bedding are properly dealt with.

Now, I would like to express my thanks to the members of the Council, Mr. James, and the Council staff, the County Medical Officer and staff, the officers of the T.B. Clinic and the local practitioners and nurses for their co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Harrold & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES GORDON MACKAY, M.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DISEASE.	TOTAL.	HOSPITAL CASES.	TOTAL DEATHS.
Ophthalmia Neonatorium.	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	9	-	-
Diphtheria.	1 (Not immunised)	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	-	-
Pneumonia.	2	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitus.	1	1	-
Whooping-cough.	9	-	-
Measles.	100	-	-
Chickenpox.	-	-	-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. No action has been taken by the Local Authority under Section 176, Public Health Act, 1936.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS. No action has been taken by the Local Authority under either of the following: -

Public Health (prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

Public Health Act, 1936.

RATIO OF NON-NOTIFIED TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS TO TOTAL TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

Non-notified deaths 1: Notified deaths 4; Ratio 1 - 5.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Age.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5.	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
10.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15.	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
20.	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
25.	3	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
35.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	8	4	-	7	1	3	-	1

/On receipt

On receipt of notification of a case of Tuberculosis the Sanitary Inspector pays a visit to the house to ascertain conditions and to give a supply of disinfectant.

Where the patients are removed to hospital or sanatorium the Inspector again pays a visit, has the premises fumigated, and in some cases walls are stripped, and bedding etc., destroyed. In the absence of a steam disinfector bedding and other clothes cannot be treated as effectively as desired.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING, 1945.

Name of District - MENYDDISLWYN U.D.C .

Population.	Nett Births.		Total births belonging to the district.	
	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.
13,320.	188	14.11.	280.	21.02.

Total Births Belonging to the District.					
Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Still Births.	
No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.
266	20.	14	1.05.	8	.6

Nett deaths registered in the district.		Transferable Deaths.	
Number.	Rate.	Non residents registered in the district.	Residents not in the district.
115.	8.6	3	45.

Total deaths belonging to the district.			
Under 1 yr.		All ages.	
No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.
21	75.	160.	12.01.

Total deaths under 1 year, belonging to the district.			
Legitimate.		Illegitimate.	
Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.
19	67.9	2	7.14

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1945.

NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT AGES UNDER ONE YEAR.

CAUSES.	Under 1 week.	1 - 4 weeks.	1 mth. - 12 mths.	Total.
Convulsions.	-	-	3	3
Asthenia.	-	1	-	1
Gastro Enteritis.	-	-	1	1
Prematurity.	4	1	-	5
Broncho-Pneumonia.	-	-	2	2
Bronchitis.	-	-	1	1
	4	2	7	13

Nett deaths registered in the district under 1 year.	
Number.	Rate.
13	69.1

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1945.

Name of District - MYNYDDISLWYN U.D.C.

CAUSES.	Nett Deaths at the subjoining ages of "Residents" occurring within the District(s).								TOTAL DEATHS IN THE DISTRICT.
	Under 1 yr.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
All Causes (Certified) (Uncertified)									
Meningitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cancer.	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	9	15
Arterio Sclerosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	11	13
Heart.	-	-	-	1	-	1	8	16	26
Rheumatic Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis.	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	8	12
Gastro Enteritis.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Broncho-Pneumonia.	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	6
Senile Decay.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Influenza.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Exophthalmic Goitre.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asthenia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4
Pernicious Anaemia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Premature Birth.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Nephritis.	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	5
Convulsions.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Silico Anthracosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	4
Other Defined Causes.	-	1	-	2	1	5	1	2	12
TOTAL	13	2	1	3	2	8	29	57	115

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

I. CHILD POPULATION IMMUNISED DURING THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS.	Aged 1 to 5 years.	Aged 5 years and over but under 15 years.	Total
Number of children (including temporary residents) who completed the full course of immunisation between the 1st January, and the 31st December, 1945.	124	78	202

II. CHILD POPULATION IMMUNISED TO DATE.	Aged. 1 to 5 years.	Aged 5 years and over but under 15 years.	Total.
Total estimated number of the children resident in this area who are considered to have been immunised as at the 31st December, 1945.	832.	2203	3035.

III. PERCENTAGE IMMUNISED TO DATE.	Aged 1 to 5 years.	Aged 5 years and over but under 15 years.
	68.7	94.5

Comparitive Table showing cases of Diphtheria in this District since 1935.

Year.	Number notified.	Deaths.	Hospital Cases.
1935.	29	1	14
1936.	49	1	15
1937.	58	-	19
1938.	51	1	18
1939.	42	2	16
1940.	32	1	5
1941.	18	-	10
1942.	10	1	10
1943.	15	-	11
1944.	7	-	4
1945.	1	-	1

MYNYDDISLWYN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1945.

Health Department,

Council Offices,

PONTLLANFRAITH.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. HARROLD & GENTLEMEN,

I am again privileged to submit my report for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal	120
Statutory.	20.
Inspections made.	634.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number of slaughterhouses on register.	3.
Number of visits made.	Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT - Since the Ministry of Food brought about the centralization of slaughtering, it was not found necessary to pay visits to any of the private slaughterhouses in the district, as all food animals were slaughtered at the "Buttry Hatch" Slaughterhouse, Maesycwmmer. However, inspections to the Meat Purveyors' shops had to be carried out with the same care as in the past.

Full advantage was again taken by persons who reared pigs on cottage premises, or small holdings, and 163 were killed thereon after due notice of intended slaughter in accordance with the stipulations of the Ministry of Health Circular (604), the special provisions granted by the Council, and in accordance with an order made by the Ministry of Food.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

By arrangement with the County Council Laboratory, samples of milk were taken and submitted for bacteriological and methylene blue tests. The samples were taken at farm premises, in the streets and at the schools in the district. The results of a number conformed to a satisfactory standard of cleanliness, but others were not quite so good. Letters were sent to the offenders and repeat samples were taken which showed a great improvement. With regard to innoculation for tubercle bacillus, none of the tests proved positive.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of cowsheds on register.	45.
Number of retail purveyors on register.	37.
Number of wholesale purveyors on register.	13.
Inspections of cowsheds and dairies.	120.

UNSOUND MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following articles were surrendered and destroyed during the year as being unfit for human consumption: -

CANNED GOODS ETC.

Butter.	27¾ lbs.	Beans.	45 tins.
Bacon.	158½ lbs.	Pilchards.	7 tins.
Cheese.	22½ lbs.	Jam.	2 tins.
Tea.	10 lbs.	Marmalade.	3 tins.
Beef.	206 lbs.	Soup.	2 tins.
Toffees.	8¼ lbs.	Salmon.	1 tin.
Chocolate caramels.	3¾ lbs.	Dried Milk.	1 tin.
Dates.	69 lbs.	Meat.	6 tins.
Cocoa.	11 lbs.	Syrup.	2 tins.
Pork Sausage.	3 lbs.	Craw fish.	2 tins.
Luncheon Meat.	13⅓ lbs.	Ideal Milk.	2 tins.
Dried Peaches.	1050 lbs.	Evaporated Milk	8 tins.
Castor Sugar.	67 lbs.	Condensed Milk.	7 tins.
Mixed Chocolates.	8 ozs.	Nestles Milk.	3 tins.

FRIED FISH.

The premises that come under the above heading were visited regularly, and in instance was it found necessary to serve an informal notice.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified: -

Small Pox.	-
Scarlet Fever.	9
Diphtheria.	1
Enteric Fever.	-
Tuberculosis - all forms.	10
Erysipelas.	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	1

CINEMAS.

Number in the area.	2
Inspections made.	4
Notices served.	-

HOUSING.

Overcrowding was again a matter for serious consideration, but until the building of new houses commences there is no hope of any improvement. Some repairs were carried out to house property, but these were strictly limited owing to a shortage of labour and building material.

TENTS, VANS, AND SHEDS.

Strenuous efforts made in the past years to prevent the erection of

/this

this type of building for human habitation, almost solved this problem. However, there was one case which caused a little trouble this year. This was remedied by shortlived or a temporary structure being erected as a substitute.

INCREASE OF RENTS AND MORTGAGE, (INTEREST) RESTRICTION ACTS.

No application was made for a certificate under the above Act during the year.

ERADICATION OF BUGS.

Number of	a.1. - Council Houses infested	6.
	b.2. - Council Houses disinfested	6.
	a.1. - Other Houses infested.	8.
	b.2. - Other Houses disinfested	8.

The methods employed for freeing the infested houses from bed bugs is by stripping, spraying, and in some instances the Painters Blow-Lamp was used. To assist private householders, sprays and tins of fluid were provided by the Council.

All vacant Council Houses are immediately notified to the Health Department. A visit is then made to the premises and if necessary disinfestation is carried out before the in-going tenant occupies the premises.

No steps were taken to ensure that the beds of in-going tenants were free from bugs.

Disinfestation is carried out in the Council Houses by direct labour, and in other cases this work is undertaken by the owners or occupiers.

COLLIERY SPOILBANKS (TIPS) LIABLE TO SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.

In the lower part of the district the burning of a colliery tip gave rise to a considerable number of complaints from the public. To abate this nuisance suggestions were put forward; first, to dig trenches around the centres of combustion and to remove the slowly burning rubbish from inside the trenches; and second, to isolate the burning material from the air by pumping in liquid cement to form walls around the centre of combustion. But these suggestions were impractical as the burning was taking place fairly generally throughout the tips. However, the Colliery Company co-operated with the Council and installed a water spraying system. While this did not completely solve the problem it improved the position a great deal.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The refuse tip, salvage store, and other Council property was visited regularly and baits were laid by the rodent operative with good results. Baits were also laid at other places where complaints were received. In each case post baiting was done to ensure that the premises were free from rats.

A second treatment of sewers was carried out in the district this year.

FIRST TREATMENT OF FOUL SEWERS.

No. of manholes contacted.		433.
" " trays fixed.		111.
" " manholes prebaited.		433.
Average prebait taken: -	Clear.	59.
	Good.	22.
	Small.	7.

Average poison bait taken: -	Clear.	19.
	Good.	15.
	Small.	7

SECOND TREATMENT OF FOUL SEWERS.

No. of manholes contacted.		433.
" " trays fixed.		109.
" " manholes prebaited.		433.
Average prebait taken: -	Clear.	4.
	Good.	17.
	Small.	24.
" poison bait taken:	Clear.	2.
	Good.	18.
	Small.	25.

FIRST TREATMENT OF SURFACE SEWERS.

No. of manholes contacted.		349.
" " trays fixed.		62.
" " manholes prebaited.		347.
Average prebait taken: -	Clear.	8.
	Good.	10.
	Small.	3.
" poison bait taken:	Clear.	6.
	Good.	11.
	Small.	3.

SECOND TREATMENT OF SURFACE SEWERS.

No. of manholes contacted.		290.
" " trays fixed.		39.
" " manholes prebaited.		290.
Average prebait taken: -	Clear.	2.
	Good.	9.
	Small.	11.
" poison bait taken:	Clear.	-
	Good.	2.
	Small.	9.

The total number of rats destroyed in all treatments was a fairly good percentage and must have reduced the surface infestation a great deal.

Appreciation is due to Mr. Cunningham, Infestation Officer, Ministry of Food, for his co-operation in this work.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power.	18	2	-
Factories without mechanical power.	13	2	-
Other premises.	6	-	-
TOTAL	37	4	-

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			No. of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness.	2	2	-	
Overcrowding.				
Unreasonable Temperature.				
Inadequate Ventilation.				
Ineffective drainage of floors.				
San. Cons. -				
insufficient.				
unsuitable or defective.	2	2		
not separate for sexes.				
	4	4		

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Harrold & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

PERCY S. JAMES.

Sanitary Inspector.